

Attachment # 2  
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August 18, 2003

To: Leon County Commissioners

From: Marjorie Pembull and Janet Hinkle  
Cultural Plan Advisory Committee Co-Chairs

This memo is to urge the adoption of the Cultural Plan and to clarify the position of the Cultural Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) with regards to the budget request for the Cultural Resources Commission.

At our last meeting, the CPAC considered the needs of the Cultural Resources Commission and the implementation of the Cultural Plan. It was agreed that a \$150,000 increase was needed in their budget. The requested increase is in addition to the base amount budgeted for CRC by the City in FY 2002 and the County in FY 2003. The additional dollars will allow the CRC to pay for additional staffing needs to support the work of the citizen committees in implementing the cultural plan and to move to a larger and more accessible space.

It was our hope that the city and county would find a way to share in this increased cost. The budget request anticipated participation by both Commissions in order to insure success. However, because the plan was initiated by the City, we submitted the full amount of \$150,000 in our budget request to the City. We are hopeful that the City and County will continue to work toward an equal sharing of this additional cost and have been very pleased with the positive responses toward this goal that we have received from members of both commissions.

We urge the City and County Commissions to work together to make the plan a joint effort. The arts and heritage go beyond the city limits and are dependent on the collective leadership of both elected bodies.

In addition, we urge immediate attention to the recommendations to create a Performing Arts Venue and a cultural support center. Eighty five per cent of the over 1000 respondents to the cultural plan questionnaire cited the need for a Performing Arts Center. Tallahassee is the only Capital City in the United States without a community performing arts venue, hardly a distinction worthy of the fourth largest state in the union. We are very encouraged by the leadership shown by Leon County Commissioners with regard to adopting the use of the bed tax to support a performing arts center and urge adoption of this at your next meeting.

We want to thank you for your support of our efforts. We are a fortunate community to have elected leadership which recognizes the key role that arts and heritage play in enhancing our quality of life.